

DOGGO

Issue 220



DOGGIE DENTURES

Because brushing is just too hard.

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The treat that's clinically proven to reduce up to 80% of tartar buildup.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

A dog is a human's best friend. Familiar with that saying? I'm sure every single one of you have heard about it. Dogs are the purest and the sweetest living creature in the planet. They offer you their heart and expect nothing in return.

Growing up, I am really afraid of dogs but slowly they taught and showed me what their intentions and wants really are; company and attention. I believe that dogs meant no harm at all and must always be loved and cared for.

In this edition, we will serve you everything you need to know about dogs starting from deciding a dog breed to consulting experts about your problem at home. With much excitement, we welcome you to our magazine.

Sit back, relax and enjoy! Woof!



Sherine Gracella,
Editor in Chief



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BRINGING HOME A NEW PUPPY

Before The Big Day



Once household discussions have established that everyone wants a dog of a certain age and breed, where to get the pup-from a shelter or reputable breeder-is more or less determined. Now family meetings should start covering the snecessary things to know.

Also, take time to create a vocabulary list everyone will use. If Mom says “down” when Puppies climbs on the couch, Dad says “down” when he wants him to lie down, and Junior utters “sit down” when he expects the pup’s rear to hit the floor, the result will be one confused dog! And that’s horrible! Putting the schedule and vocabulary list in writing prevents nannies, and others involved in raising Puppies. confusion and will help dog walkers, nannies and others involved in raising the Pupper.

Next, draft a shopping list and purchase supplies: food and water bowls, chew toys, grooming supplies, bedding, collar and leash, identification tag, crate, gate, and odor neutralizer. Pre-puppy shopping allows you to order from wholesale catalogs or visit the pet superstore in the next county without the pressure of Puppies needing it right now.

You’ll need to puppy-proof the area where the youngster will spend most of his time the first few months. This may mean taping loose electrical cords to baseboards; storing household chemicals on high shelves; removing plants, rugs, and breakables; setting up the crate; and installing gates. Once you think you’ve completely puppy-proofed, lie on the floor and look around once more to get a puppy’s-eye view.



Getting Off On The Right Paw



When you pick up your pup, remember to ask what and when he was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new brand to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to equal parts; and then one part old to three parts new.

From the start, consistency is important. On the way home, Puppies should ride in the back seat, in a crate or carrier.

Once home, folks who plop the excited newcomer on the Oriental and let the kids chase him will be mopping up in no time- and regretting the lesson

they taught their new pup. Instead, take him to his toileting area immediately. From there, carry out your schedule for feeding, toileting, napping, playing and exercising. From day one, your pup will obviously need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Solitude may be new to Puppies, so he may vocalize concern. Don't give in and comfort him or you may create a monster, and nobody wants that! Give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly.

Doing things correctly from the start prevents confusion. Through puppy preparedness, you are one step closer to your Dream Dog.

“Gee, if making noise brought them running once, maybe more whimpering is needed to get their attention again”



IS THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER RIGHT FOR YOU?

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a family dog through and through.

Silly, friendly, and smart, they make loyal companions devoted to their families.





Brave Playful Clever

With a wide, smiling mouth, broad chest, and compact, solidly muscled body, the Staffordshire is a sweetheart—official breed standards mandates the Stafford must be affectionate with children—but also a powerhouse. As the AKC notes, “While [the Stafford] is a sweet-tempered, affectionate dog, his strength and determination require an experienced owner who can work with him in a firm, but gentle way.” This dog is gentle, playful, and clever, but also brave, tenacious, and slightly stubborn. This is also a breed that doesn’t always

socialize easily with other dogs or animals. Dayna Lemke, the author of *A New Owner’s Guide to Staffordshire Bull Terriers* says: “It’s better to go into the Stafford experience expecting to have a dog who isn’t canine social than the other way around.” Early and extensive socialization with other dogs and animals is recommended for all Staffords.

If you’re looking for a loyal, lovey dog devoted to its family, one who perhaps prefers human friendship over canine buddies, the silly, smiling Stafford might be the dog for you.



OR THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL?

Despite being named after a king and boasting one of the most unquestionably upper crust pedigrees of any breed, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is too full of affection to stand on formality.





**Affectionate
Grateful
Gentle**

Perhaps this is the secret behind the long love affair between the Cavalier and the British monarchs—surrounded by propriety and stiff etiquette, the royals must have delighted in the unassuming and unrehearsed antics of their little spaniels.

At least three Stuart kings owned the breed, as well as Queen Victoria, whose favourite pet during the early part of her reign was a Cavalier named Dash. The young queen even wrote an epitaph for Dash upon his death.

Confusingly, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel has

a cousin with a similar name—the dome-headed, short-faced King Charles Spaniel. The Cavalier is primarily distinguished by his longer muzzle and flatter head.

The Cavalier currently ranks 19th in popularity in the US, thanks to the compact, friendly, and adaptable nature of this breed. At 12 to 13 inches in height, the Cavalier is small and portable yet is not fragile or dainty. The essence of the Cavalier's personality is "Hello! I love you!" The breed sports a silky, medium-length coat in black and tan, ruby, tricolour, or red and white.

Today, the Cavalier may find repose upon a cozy couch rather than on the silken cushions of her courtly past, but one thing has not changed—as Queen Victoria wrote of her own darling Dash, these sweet-natured spaniels still "live beloved."

NEW PUP



THE YORKSHIRE TERRIER

The frequently well-dressed, jewel-collared petit chiens we see in the totes of fashionistas weren't always companions of choice for the dog-discerning, however. In the beginning, the Yorkie was a working dog.

By Mary-Jo Dionne

The exact origins of the Yorkshire Terrier are obscure. What is amply certain is that its original purpose was to control rats in the factories, coal mines and textile mills of Yorkshire, in northern England, during the Industrial Revolution. The breed is thought to be a mixture of several different small terriers. These include the now-extinct Paisley and Clydesdale terriers, small dogs with long, silky, bluish-grey coats, brought to Yorkshire by Scottish weavers in the mid-19th century. Plus something then called the Waterside Terrier-and an "Old English Black and Tan Terrier."

An added dash of the Maltese may have seasoned the breed later in its development.

After its transition from common ratcatcher to desirable arm warmer in the Victorian era, the Yorkie's popularity among seekers of fashionable four-legged friendship only snowballed. This surge is largely attributed to the dogs' intelligence, energy, good looks (looks, it could be argued, that have gone straight to their heads) and affection for their owners. They are suspicious of strangers and have an acute sense of hearing, making them effective watch dogs. Ideal for

apartment living-although also good outdoor companions-Yorkies are not well suited to homes with young children, primarily due to their very small size.

The famous Yorkie terrier attitude often presents itself in stubbornness and anti-social tendencies toward other animals. In a word, these dogs appear to think they're just "too cool." However, Corky would likely choke on his pâté if he got his paws on an old family album. A quick flip-through would reveal his ancestors' dark days in the mines and may be just the thing to humble him.

The American Kennel Club breed standard describes the Yorkshire Terrier as “neat, compact and well proportioned,” while its “high head carriage and confident manner should give the appearance of vigor and self-importance.” It has a medium-length muzzle, a black nose and a small flat head-ideal for any book-balancing a career in modelling may require. The eyes are lively and dark, the ears small, V-shaped and erect. Weight must not exceed seven pounds. (It is of interest that the early ratting dogs were reported to be substantially larger-more in the order of 15 to 20 pounds.)

Arguably the Yorkie’s most stunning feature is its coat. Simon & Schuster’s *Guide to Dogs* (1980) describes the coat as being “composed of straight, long, shiny, silky hair that is steel blue with golden areas on the head, chest, and limbs.” (While many humans pay top dollar for highlights like that, the Yorkie’s golden markings were supposedly developed so it could be easily seen in the darkness of the mines.) It’s likely your puppy will be born black, but within a year he will develop the standard coat. Typically, the hair on the head is so long that it must be tied with a bow in the centre or parted in the middle and tied on the sides. While this is

aesthetically pleasing from an adorability factor, more importantly it allows the dog to see better. (However, this doesn’t negate the fact that today’s tiny, bow-clad Yorkie would likely be laughed out of any working coal mine.)

Many people think the chic coats donned by our Yorkies are merely hip accessories. While partially correct, it’s also true our tiny friends suffer tremendously from the cold. As such, sweaters are one-part luxury, two-parts necessity.



Meet the Yorkshire Terrier



FUN FACTS

-  1. Champion show dog Huddersfield Ben is considered the father of the Yorkshire Terrier breed.
-  2. They used to be known as Broken Haired Scotch Terriers.
-  3. Yorkies originally worked as ratters, ridding homes and other buildings of small vermin.
-  4. The hair of a Yorkshire Terrier can grow up to two feet long.



12-15 years



7-9 inches



Up to 7 pounds

In 1861 the Yorkshire Terrier made its debut at a bench show in England under the name "broken- haired Scotch Terrier." However, after the 1870 Westmoreland Show, Angus Sutherland wrote in The Field magazine that "they ought no longer be called Scotch Terriers, but Yorkshire Terriers for having been so improved there. Later the name was officially proclaimed. Today, short and sweet like the dog itself, the breed is nicknamed simply "Yorkie."

TRAITS

COMPATIBILITY WITH CHILDREN
COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PETS
ENERGY LEVEL
EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS
GROOMING
PROTECTIVENESS
TRAINABILITY



TRIED AND TESTED

ABSORB THIS

BY SHERYL LAU

A lifesaver for busy paw-rents, pee pads keep your floor clean and Fido's paws dry. Our resident pooch, Happy, leaves his mark on four.





Honey Care U-Play Lavender Pee Pad

Exuding a fairly strong lavender scent, Constructed with fairly thick padding, it took 27 seconds for the pee to be completely absorbed. One sheet could hold up to six wettings, and needed to be changed only after about 20 hours. Although pricey, this brand boasts a fast absorption rate, high fluid capacity, and effective odour control. It's even able to handle the large volumes of pee produced by medium- and large-sized hounds without leaking. Although a pleasant touch, the lavender scent dissipated within a few hours.

Price:
\$29.90 for 24 pieces
(60cm X 90cm)



JANP Drypets Pee Pads

Although this pee pad took 60 seconds to fully absorb Happy's pee, it's extremely light and compact. Each sheet could hold about four wettings, but there was a slight pee odour after four hours. The long strip of adhesive tape at the base is a boon for paw-rents of pups that scratch the pee pad surface after urinating or have a penchant for dragging the sheets around the house. The tape also allows the pad to be secured against a wall, which is helpful too.

Price:
\$16.50 for 25 pieces
(60cm X 90cm)



Absorb Plus Antibacterial Pet Sheets

Made of eco-friendly materials, this antibacterial pee pad has a polymer core that turns liquid into gel instantly to prevent tracking and adhesive tape on the four corners of the base. It's also infused with activated charcoal and bamboo to minimise odours. Each sheet took 45 seconds to completely absorb Happy's pee and could hold up to five wettings. Plus, it lasted an entire day without emitting any odours. A cost-effective option, this pee pad allows paw-rents to refresh their pups' toileting area more frequently.

Price:
\$14.90 for 25 pieces
(60cm X 90cm)

HUMAN FOODS DOGS CAN AND CAN'T EAT

Dedicated dog lovers tend to be very kind people. We share our hearts and homes (and for some lucky pups, even the foot of our beds) with our canine pals. Surely there is nothing wrong with sharing our favorite foods with them too, right? Not necessarily. Many of the foods, such as fruits and vegetables, that humans digest just fine can wreck havoc on a dog's body, causing severe health problems. On the other hand, some of the foods people eat can be introduced to a dog's diet just fine, and even provide health benefits such as joint strength, better breath, and allergy immunity.

But before giving your dog foods that you crave, read on and learn which foods are safe and which can send your dog straight to the vet.



Dogs can eat honey.

Honey is packed with countless nutrients such as vitamins A, B, C, D, E, and K, potassium, calcium, magnesium, copper, and antioxidants. Feeding dogs small amounts of honey can help with allergies because it introduces small amounts of pollen to their systems, building up immunity to allergens in your area. The sticky spread can also be used as a topical treatment for burns and superficial cuts.

Dogs can have milk.

But be cautious. Many dogs are lactose-intolerant and don't digest milk well. While it is okay for dogs to have a little milk, owners should be cognizant of the symptoms of lactose-intolerance and might want to stick to giving their dogs water.

Dogs shouldn't eat

almonds. Almonds may not necessarily be toxic to dogs like pecans, walnuts, and macadamia nuts are, but they can block the esophagus or even tear the windpipe if not chewed completely. Salted almonds are especially dangerous because they can increase water retention, which is potentially fatal to dogs prone to heart disease.

Dogs can eat cheese in small to moderate quantities.

As long as your dog isn't lactose intolerant, which is rare, but still possible in canines, cheese can be a great treat. Many kinds of cheese can be high in fat, so go for low-fat varieties like cottage cheese or mozzarella.

Dogs should not eat

chocolate. Chocolate contains very toxic substances called methylxanthines, which are stimulants that stop a dog's metabolic process. Even just a little bit of chocolate, especially dark chocolate, can cause diarrhea and vomiting. A large amount can cause seizures, irregular heart function, and even death.

Coconut is OK for dogs.

This funky fruit contains Lauric, which strengthens the immune system by fighting off viruses. It can also help with bad breath and clearing up skin conditions like hot spots, flea allergies, and itchy skin. Coconut milk and coconut oil are safe for dogs too.



**Can My
Dog Eat
That?**



YES!



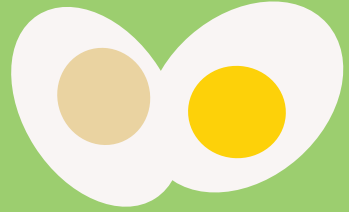
cheese

Dogs can eat cheese in small to moderate quantities. As long as your dog isn't lactose intolerant, which is rare, but still possible in canines, cheese can be a great treat.



coconut

Yes, coconut is OK for dogs. This funky fruit contains Lauric, which strengthens the immune system by fighting off viruses. It can also help with bad breath and clearing up skin conditions like hot spots, flea allergies, and itchy skin.



boiled egg

It's OK for dogs to eat eggs. Eggs are safe for dogs as long as they are fully cooked. Cooked eggs are a wonderful source of protein and can help an upset stomach.

NO!



almonds

Avoid giving almonds to dogs. They can block the esophagus or even tear the windpipe if not chewed completely. Salted almonds are especially dangerous because they can increase water retention, which is potentially fatal to dogs prone to heart disease.



chocolate

Chocolate contains very toxic substances called methylxanthines, which are stimulants that stop a dog's metabolic process. Even just a little bit of chocolate, especially dark chocolate, can cause diarrhea and vomiting.



ice cream

As refreshing of a treat as ice cream is, it's best not to share it with your dog. Canines don't digest dairy very well, and many even have a slight intolerance to lactose, a sugar found in milk products.

PUPPY PARTY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NALA!



*By
Zoella Sugg*

Having never had a dog growing up, it hadn't ever really occurred to me that dogs, much like humans, have birthdays. Maybe they only really have birthdays if you're a crazy dog person, and on Saturday when my puppy Nala turned one, I realised I was just that.

I ordered bunting, napkins, party hats and helium balloons and it was only after I'd taken the photos that I laughed at how ridiculous it seemed, but I didn't care. If you can't go all out and celebrate a special occasion for your dog then what is life? Plus, although Nala looked less than bothered and probably hated me for putting a party hat on her head, she really enjoyed the pupcakes and I'll always laugh and treasure the photos for ever.

I decided to bake pug shaped cookies for the humans to munch on, and "pupcakes" (dog friendly cupcakes) for both Nala and Buzz (her brother, owned by Alfie's parents).

**Pupcake Recipe (Makes 9) :**

- ¥ 1 cup plain flour
- ¥ 1/3 cup porridge oats
- ¥ 1 tsp baking soda
- ¥ 1 cup shredded carrots
- ¥ 1/3 cup peanut butter
- ¥ 1 banana
- ¥ 1 large egg
- ¥ 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- ¥ 1/4 cup honey
- ¥ 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

Frosting:

- 2 x Tubs cream cheese low fat
- smooth peanut butter
- Dog treats of your choice

Pre heat oven to 170 degrees celcius, line cupcake tins with paper cases (remember to take these off before giving to your dog if you have a bit of a greedy pup). Mix all ingredients in a bowl and distribute evenly between the cupcake cases. Bake for 15 minutes and leave to cool before icing. Using a spoon to dollop cream cheese on the cakes or as I did, use a disposable piping bag and smear two lines of peanut butter along the inside of the bag and spoon in the cream cheese. I used a large star icing nozzle and piped in a circular motion. I then popped a little puppy treat on top! Serve to your dog (preferably with a spotty napkin and a party hat) and enjoy!

TREATS FOR MY SWEET

*If your dog loves to chew, try making your own
tasty potato trats, says Rachel Sharpe.*



You will need:

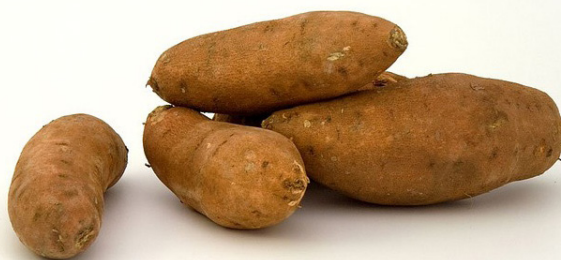
Sweet potatoes

Chopping board

Knife

Large baking tray

Baking parchment
paper



Step 1

SLICE

Preheat the oven to 50°C. Wash the sweet potatoes and pat them dry, then slice thinly lengthwise. Getting the slices thin is very important, as they won't become chewy if they're too thick.

Step 2

BAKE

Line a baking tray with baking parchment to help prevent the chews sticking. Lay out the sweet potato slices on the tray in a single layer and bake for three hours, turning halfway through. This might seem like a long time, but it's the length of baking at a low oven temperature that makes the treats chewy and dry.

Step 3

COOL

Allow the slices to cool and you're done - all ready to treat your dog! The chews will keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container in the fridge. They also freeze well, so you could bake a big batch and freeze some, then you'll always have some healthy and tasty treats in the house.

SOCIALIZING YOUR PUPPY

*By College of Veterinary Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M
University*

Many dog owners have heard that socializing their puppy is important, but many do not know where to begin. It is important to show your puppy that not all people and animals pose a threat. Exposing your puppy to the world through proper socialization will help them develop into a social, obedient and confident dog.

The most critical socialization time for your puppy is between two and 12 weeks of age. During this time, it is important to expose

your puppy to a variety of people, animals and situations. Allowing your pet to experience these things early in life will prevent fear & aggression in the future. It will also promote your puppy's obedience in critical scenarios. A puppy who trusts their owner that there is nothing to fear will more likely obey their owner without hesitation.

Although socialization can continue throughout puppyhood, it is important to start the process early. Puppies begin to develop

fear at about eight to 10 weeks of age, so early reinforcement of positive behavior around other people and animals is critical for social development. Puppies who are not properly exposed to animals and people may find them frightening when they encounter them for the first time at an older age. This may lead to aggressive behavior, such as growling, barking, or biting. However, puppies that are properly socialized are less likely to exhibit.

Socializing your puppy isn't as simple as allowing any animal or person to interact with your pet. Before allowing your puppy to be exposed to new people or animals, you should consider if each person or animal will leave your puppy with a positive experience. For example, if a child is unable to hold your puppy correctly, then it is best not to let them do so. If an adult may play too hard with your puppy, then it is best to avoid them. Negative experiences during this critical learning period

in your puppy's life may lead to a fearful adulthood.

In addition, you should also consider the safety and health of your puppy during socialization. Since puppies do not receive full vaccinations for diseases until about 15 weeks of age, it is important to choose wisely when socializing your puppy with other animals. Older dogs and cats that have been vaccinated are safest for your puppy to interact with. Inviting healthy pets to your home instead of venturing into

parks can also help prevent your vulnerable puppy from contracting illnesses, such as parvovirus.

Socialization can occur throughout puppyhood, but it is important to begin socializing your puppy early. Exposing your puppy to a variety of animals and people will help them see the world as non-threatening and grow into an outgoing, friendly, and well-behaved dog.

“ Socializing your puppy is important because it will enable them to be more at ease and focus on commands from you without distractions. Socializing with a variety of people and animals also helps puppies develop socially without fear. It is also very important to socialize puppies with kittens and vice versa. One of the best ways to prevent your puppy from contracting a disease is to invite people with vaccinated animals into your home. While these pets can still carry some diseases, vaccination makes them much less likely to shed and spread the diseases. There are also several trainers who offer classes for socializing puppies in fairly controlled environments.”

- Dr. Stacy Eckman, clinical assistant professor
at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences



By Stanley Coren | Illustrated by Kailey Lang

HOW TO GET YOUR DOG TO DO AS YOU ASK

So your dog is not obeying your instructions. She has clearly learned the basic commands of “sit,” “down,” and “come,” but sometimes when you issue those instructions she obeys and sometimes she acts completely clueless and does not respond.



This problem is not unique to you and your dog—it is even a concern for expert dog trainers who compete at the highest levels of obedience competition. Fortunately science has an answer that might help you to get your dog to more reliably react to your commands.

I was recently at a dog-training seminar. During one of the breaks, a small group of highly respected dog trainers and dog obedience competitors had gathered together, cardboard coffee cups in hand. They were doing what dog handlers often do when they get together, namely discussing how best to get dogs to do what you want them to do. It was a rather vigorous debate, and this time the issue in dispute was whether or not to use your dog's name as part of the command. The group was all in agreement that it was critical that the dog must be paying attention to the handler in order to get a reliable response, but whether the dog's name was needed to capture that attention was up for debate.

How you phrase commands is key to getting your dog to respond

One highly successful dog obedience competitor insisted that if the dog is already paying attention to its handler then using his name as part of the command is not only unneeded, but might actually be a distraction. He argued that the using the dog's name merely provides the dog with a sound that conveys no additional information in this situation. In fact, this dog trainer suggested that giving the dog's name simply delayed the processing of the actual command and might be a meaningless distraction.

A second member of the group pointed out that dogs live in a sea of human verbal sounds and the dog's name serves to alert the dog to the fact that the next set of sounds coming from the handler's mouth is directed at them, rather than being part of a conversation that you might be having with another human being.

‘Lassie come here!’ there is no ambiguity and the dog immediately knows that the command was directed at her.”

A second member of the group pointed out that dogs live in a sea of human verbal sounds and the dog’s name serves to alert the dog to the fact that the next set of sounds coming from the handler’s mouth is directed at them, rather than being part of a conversation that you might be having with another human being. She suggested, “If I say ‘Come here!’ how does the dog know who I am talking to? It could be that I was speaking to the person next to me, or perhaps to someone across the room, or if I am in the show ring I could be talking to the judge rather than specifically issuing an instruction to my dog.

The third trainer insisted that using the dog’s name was an opportunity

to capture the dog’s attention before issuing the obedience command. She said that, especially in competition, she always gives the dog’s name and then pauses for a second to be sure that the name had captured the dog’s attention and her pet had focused on her, before delivering the actual obedience command.

The research had been done by Maya Braem and Daniel Mills of the Animal Behaviour, Cognition and Welfare Group at the University of Lincoln in the UK. There were two parts to the investigation. In the first, 56 dog handlers were videotaped giving their dogs a “sit” command during dog obedience classes. The idea was to look at a well-learned obedience command in

order to see how reliably the dogs responded and to determine which aspects of the delivery of the command influenced the dog’s performance. Analysis of the tapes showed that two factors were very important. Just as the dog handlers had presumed, the data showed that it was important that the dogs be paying attention (looking at the handler) for them to respond reliably. The data also showed that saying anything to the dog before issuing the command—even if it is an attempt to get the dog’s attention—is not helpful. For example, if instead of simply saying “Lassie, sit!” you instead say “Look at me. Lassie sit!” this will actually decrease the likelihood that your dog will respond consistently.

Based on these results, a second, more controlled study was run with 12 dogs. The idea was to see how well dogs responded to a well-known and familiar command like “sit” or “down,” as well as to a recently learned command (in this case “uff” which meant to jump onto a raised surface). Once the dogs were trained to a predetermined criterion, they were tested to see how dependably they responded to four ways of delivering the obedience command. These were: the verbal command alone; the dog's name followed immediately by the command; the dog's name followed by a pause of two seconds before issuing the command; or having a meaningless word sound (here they used “Banane”) preceding the command.

The comparison between giving the obedience command alone (e.g. “Down!”), versus the dog's name directly preceding it (e.g. “Lassie, down!”), showed absolutely no difference. In other words, saying the dog's name did not provide an additional

advantage in reliability and the researchers concluded that dogs tend to view these two ways of phrasing an instruction as simply being alternate forms of the same communication.

What about saying things other than the dogs name? The data show that giving irrelevant word sounds before the command causes the dog's performance to deteriorate for both well-known and newly learned commands; however the effects are considerably greater for recently learned instructions. The researchers suggest that any additional verbal information before the command will reduce the accuracy of the dog's performance, so one should avoid things like “Ready, down!”

Finally, the data indicated that if you are going to use the dog's name as part of your obedience commands then you should do so without any gap or break. If the dog's name was given and then there was a two second pause before

giving the command, the dog's performance was significantly less dependable when dealing with newly learned commands (such pauses seem to have considerably less effect on well-known, familiar commands). The take-away message? If your dog is paying attention, using or not using her name when issuing an obedience command makes no difference.

However, meaningless (to your dog) preamble or additional instructions proceeding the issuing of a command results in poorer performance reliability, especially when you're dealing with commands your dog has just recently learned. In other words, science is telling us we should cut out any polite but extraneous conversation when giving instructions to our dogs and simply, without pauses or breaks, tell the dog what you want him to do. Which, come to think of it, just might be effective (if not overly sociable) communication advice overall.

Nexo SPEC



ZAŠTITA
OD BUHA

ZAŠTITA
OD KRPELJA

Gard ETRA™



PREVENCIJA
DIROFILARIOZE




LIJEČENJE INVAZIJE
GASTROINTESTINALNIH
NEMATODA

ASK THE EXPERT

A POM-RISING FUTURE





I'm adopting a seven-year-old female Pomeranian that used to be a former breeding dog.

What conditions are common in such dogs, and can you recommend any specific diet, food or additional supplements?


There are a few things to be aware of when adopting a former breeding dog. Firstly, has she been desexed? Some shelters sterilise these dogs before placing them into a new home, but some don't. If not, it is a good idea to get this done once she has settled into her new home, which may take two to four weeks. Breeding dogs often have enlarged mammary glands from all the suckling, and they can be slightly more prone to developing mammary cancers if you don't de-sex them.

The other thing about breeding dogs is that many of them have spent quite a lot of their life in cages and outdoor runs, so they may not be fully socialised to living inside a house—this may mean that they are not house-trained and may eliminate indoors. These dogs may not understand basic commands such as 'sit and stay', and may also be more prone to jumping up on you.

With regard to diet, I advocate using as much fresh, frozen, or freeze-dried/ air-dried raw foods as possible. These diets make for the healthiest dogs long-term, and can definitely help with any skin issues and dental disease that your new dog may have. As for supplements, I would use a good all-round multivitamin/mineral/trace element to start with, so that you can build the dog's immune system up. Also try and get her to start chewing on some raw chicken necks, or even chicken feet, to exercise the teeth and gums. I'd also look for an omega-3 supplement like flax seed oil, fish oil or krill oil, which will improve the coat and boost the immune system. Lastly, think about a probiotic supplement to help the digestive tract, and a colostrum boost like Transfer Factor. These can all help you build up a super strong immune system, and thereby a healthy dog.

PUPPY BUSINESS





My 13-week-old Border Collie had initially been spot-on with his house training—we brought him out every two hours and there'd been close to no accidents in the house. However, recently he's been peeing before the scheduled time. Once, he peed indoors right after I took him out!

How do we rectify it?

You may have worked out a schedule for your puppy and he may have been doing well, but it's not uncommon for a pup to suddenly pee before his scheduled time or pee in the house right after being brought outdoors to relieve himself. This behaviour is normal, so fret not.

If you take your puppy out every four hours and he starts peeing before the next scheduled potty timing, then decrease the duration and take a step back—only progress on once your puppy is consistent, and perhaps adjust to shorter intervals. You will know when you have found the right time interval, but you may still need to account for variables such as your puppy playing more during that potty break, drinking more water than usual, or eating more treats.

Puppies do forget if you move too fast with training, so pacing is important. Reward your pup when he does his business outside—be consistent

and adjust accordingly in circumstances where you may need to decrease the intervals. Once your puppy has been consistent for a good amount of time, increase the duration between potty breaks and eventually you will find a schedule that works for you and your furkid.

The younger the puppy, the less control it has over the muscles that control its bladder. As such, the little guy will require more potty breaks with shorter intervals. A good estimate on how long your puppy can hold its pee for is $P+1$ hours— P being the age of your puppy in months. A 13-week-old puppy is about three months old, so he would be able to hold his pee for about four hours. This is purely an estimate so some trial and error is definitely needed. If you use this estimate and keep your puppy crated or without access to their potty area for more than the estimated time, they will be most likely soil themselves inside their crate or in the house.



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